

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, October 17, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 9/19/06 meeting were read. One correction was made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The minutes of the 10/3/06 meeting were also read. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Ms. Alger seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from the Ladies Benevolent Society for use of the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Town Hall for their October program and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - b) Mr. Kellner moved to approve a Beer & Wine permit for the Royalston Firefighters Association Annual Turkey Raffle on 11/10/06. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
  - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to pay a bill from Kimball-Cooke Insurance in the amount of \$479. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
  - d) Mr. Kellner spoke about a survey from MRPC regarding communities interested in trail development. He will respond with relevant information.
  - e) The Board accepted with regrets the resignation of Lillie Dobson from the Board of Registrars. Ms. Dobson served in this capacity for 30 years. The Board will recognize Ms. Dobson's service to the town with a plaque.
  - f) Mr. West reviewed information received from Brenda Putney regarding a change in state law relating to independent contractors. This may impact the status of those who are hired by the DPW for snow removal. Mr. West will check to see if Kopelman & Paige has information about this change.
4. Department Head Reports:
  - a) Ted Neale – Electrical Inspector: Mr. Neale came before the Board to request that the fees for electrical inspections be increased \$15. There has been no increase in three years. Discussion was held regarding the revolving account and how Mr. Neale gets paid for the inspections. Mr. West noted that it was interesting that the Board approves increases for electrical and plumbing inspectors, but the Building Inspector's salary must be approved by town meeting vote. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the increase as requested by Mr. Neale. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - b) Larry Siegel – Tree Warden: Mr. Siegel has prepared a map of the trees on the common and categorized them by their condition. There are approximately 20 trees that are in bad shape. Two people have volunteered to underwrite the cost of planting new trees. Discussion was held on how to deal with the situation. Kelly Newton stated that there are many dead trees in town that are not being cleaned up. Mr. West will contact the UMASS Extension Service to see what help is available. Ms. Alger suggested that the town research the cost to cut down 15 trees, and put an article on a Special Town Meeting warrant to pay for it. There may also be grant funds available. Mr. Siegel will secure a quote from a local tree company.
  - c) DPW –

- 1) Keith Newton reported that the Volvo grader is due to be delivered to C.N. Wood on 11/1/06 where they will mount the plow frame, install lights, etc.
  - 2) Mr. Newton stated that he has been observing action by beavers on Winchendon and Brown Roads. He is working with Phil Leger, Board of Health Agent, on the permitting process for beaver control.
  - 3) There was no new update on Route 32. Preliminary planning is on going.
  - 4) Phase 2 of the Chapter 90 roadwork is almost done. Work on North Fitzwilliam Road is scheduled and will be done when the contractor is available.
  - 5) The roof on Fire Station #2 is almost complete. Both sides of the Town Hall have been stripped and prepped. An oil base sealant has been applied. The blinds are being repaired.
- d) Fire Department:
- 1) Chief Wayne Newton presented information to the Board regarding C.O.O.P.s (Continuity of Operations Plans), which follow behind the NIMS training.
  - 2) The radios are working well. The UHF radio frequency program is still scheduled for 11/1/06. New radios were installed in some fire and police department vehicles.
  - 3) Discussion was held regarding the information on the cost of upgrading the AED's as prepared by Gary Winitzer. Chief Newton was not aware of this information and stated that the upgrades are not due until the end of 2007. He was planning to put an article on the town meeting warrant to pay for the upgrades. Mr. Kellner advised Chief Newton that if he feels that Mr. Winitzer is being insubordinate, then he should document it. Mr. West said that Chief Newton should establish ground rules. Mr. West also stated that he had an issue with the appointment of Mr. Winitzer to Captain. He said that Mr. Winitzer's training activity should be recognized, but there are other qualifications required for this position. Discussion was held regarding splitting the Fire Department & Rescue so that Mr. Winitzer would retain his position as Captain. Discussion was held regarding qualifications of first responders and EMT's.
  - 4) After some discussion with Chief Newton and clarification of the bylaw, the Board decided to send a letter to the postmistress stating that they were not authorized in their recent action to change the address of the post office to 1 Athol Road. Mr. West will write the letter.
5. Old Business:
- a) Building Needs Committee formation: Mr. West stated that he would like to recruit people to begin working on this committee.
  - b) Mr. West has researched the cost of computers for the Town Clerk, Accountant and Building Inspector and for a laser printer for the Administrative Assistant. Total cost would be approximately \$5300. There was \$6100 appropriated for these purchases at the town meeting.
  - c) Jack Morse presented information to the Board regarding ID's for town employees.
6. The Treasury warrant was signed.
7. Mr. West will forward a request from Tom Musco to town counsel regarding clarification of the discontinued roads issue, along with other pertinent information relating to previous town meeting articles.
8. At 9:54 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.